



Title

**2014 Pedestrian Projects-Lake City Way NE &
NE 145th Curb Ramps**

Seattle, Washington

SEPA Checklist

March 3, 2014

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA) ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

2014 Pedestrian Projects - Lake City Way NE & NE 145th Street Curb Ramps

2. Name of applicant:

Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Megan Hoyt
Seattle Department of Transportation
PO Box 34996
Seattle, Washington 98124-4996
206-684-5127

4. Date checklist prepared

March 3, 2014

5. Agency requesting checklist:

SDOT

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Construction is planned for June through December 2014.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

There are no additions, expansions, or further activities related to this proposal planned at this time.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

There is a steep slope Environmentally Critical area on a parcel located to the southeast of the project. The steep slope area is not adjacent to the project work area.

SDOT reviewed Ecology records regarding soil and groundwater contamination on parcels near the project area. One parcel located at the southwest corner of the intersection adjacent to the project work area has records indicating soil and water contamination. The extent of the contamination into the right of way is unknown, but there is a record stating that a tank was removed from beneath the right of way.

- 9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.**

A search of the Seattle Department of Planning and Development (DPD) Activity Locator web site on February 5, 2014 showed no applications have been filed or permits issued for development on parcels adjacent to the project site between June 1, 2013 and February 5, 2014.

- 10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.**

1. Street Use Permit, SDOT
2. (Potentially) Noise Variance, DPD

- 11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site.**

SDOT plans to install curb ramps on the south side of NE Lake City Way and NE 145th Street intersection. A new signal mast arm will also be installed on the southwest corner and Accessible Pedestrian Signals added at all crossings. In order to construct American Disabilities Act compliant ramps, SDOT will acquire 177 sq. feet of new right of way.

- 12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist**

The project is located at the intersection of NE 145th Street and Lake City Way NE. SDOT extended the right of way by purchasing areas to allow sufficient space for the curb ramp landings.

The project is located in Township 26N, Range 4E, Section 21 in Seattle, Washington. See attached map.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (check those applicable)

- ✓ Flat
- Rolling
- Hilly
- Steep Slopes
- Mountainous
- Other

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The slope on the road located east of the intersection is approximately 7%.
Slope between east and west portion of the project is 2%.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.**

The soil for the project site consists of younger glacial deposits from beneath the Vashon glacial ice. These deposits contain sand and silt surrounded by rounded glacial gravel.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.**

No. The project area is paved except for the planting strips along the road.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.**

Removal of existing pavement and underlying layers in the project area should not extend more than two feet below the existing surface, except in the area on the northeast side of the intersection where the mast arm support will be installed. See 13.b.

The project will require approximately:

- 95 tons of mineral aggregate
- 10 tons of hot and warm -mix asphalt; and
- 225 yards of concrete

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.**

Disturbed areas of the project site could be susceptible to erosion during pavement and concrete removal operations. Construction will be phased, limiting the area of exposed soil. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented to ensure that erosion is minimized.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?**

Except for a planting bed on the east side of the intersection, one hundred percent of the project area will be covered with impervious surface when the project is complete. The project will increase impervious surface by up to 177 sq. feet. The total of new plus replaced impervious surface in the completed project will be 3670 square feet.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:**

BMPs will be implemented to reduce or control erosion during construction, in accordance with the City's Standard Specifications for Road, Bridge, and Municipal Construction, along with the Seattle Stormwater Code. The contractor will be required to submit and follow a Construction Stormwater and Erosion Control Plan and comply with the City of Seattle Stormwater Code, SMC 22.800 to 22.808.

2. Air

- a. **What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke, greenhouse gases) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

Construction:

The typical sources of emissions during construction of transportation projects include:

- Fugitive dust generated during excavation, grading, and other construction activities;
- Engine exhaust emissions from construction vehicles, work vehicles, and construction equipment;
- Increased motor vehicle emissions associated with increased traffic congestions during construction and;
- Volatile organic and odorous compounds emitted during asphalt paving.

The total emissions and timing of the emissions from these sources will vary depending on the phasing of the project and construction methods. The project is estimated to result in approximately 184 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e), which accounts for the manufacture of paving materials, construction related emissions, and maintenance of the pavement over its expected life cycle.

This estimate was calculated using a conservative emissions factor of 50 MTCO₂e per 1,000 square feet of new pavement developed by King County from an analysis of several different life cycle assessments of the environmental impacts of roads. It is important to note that these studies estimated the embodied emissions for streets. Paving that includes sidewalks would likely use less cement and hence have lower embodied emissions.

After Construction:

Emissions are not expected to change as a result of this project..

- b. **Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.**

There are no known off-site sources of emissions or odor that would affect this proposal.

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:**

During construction, impacts to air quality would be reduced and controlled through implementation of standard federal, state, and local emission control criteria, in accordance with the City's Standard Specifications for Road, Bridge, and Municipal Construction. The City's Standard Specifications require that contractors maintain air quality to comply with the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants and National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Reducing air quality impacts during construction could involve such measures as spraying areas of exposed soil with water for dust control, periodically cleaning streets in the construction zone, and minimizing vehicle and equipment idling to limit exhaust emissions.

3. Water

a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

There is a portion of Littlebrook Creek, a tributary of Thornton Creek in a culvert approximately one and one half blocks from the project site. The project site drains to Thornton Creek.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

The project will not work over, in, or adjacent to any water bodies.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

No fill or dredge material will be placed in or removed from surface water as part of the proposed project.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

The project will not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

No, the project does not lie within a 100-year floodplain.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.**

No. BMPs will be used to insure that sediment, concrete or asphalt wastes are not discharged to surface waters.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

No. It is not likely that any groundwater will be withdrawn and there will be no discharge to groundwater. Should any groundwater be encountered during the drainage installations the water will be hauled offsite or discharged to the sanitary sewer.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals . . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Not applicable.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

The source of runoff will be rainwater that falls directly on or sheet flows onto the project site. Sheet flow run on to the project site will be minimized with BMPs. The runoff will flow into Thornton Creek via the Seattle Public Utilities conveyance system and ultimately enter Lake Washington.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No, waste materials will not enter ground or surface waters.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Per Seattle Stormwater Code requirements, Green Stormwater Infrastructure to control flow volume will be installed to the maximum extent feasible on this project site. Trees and amended soil may be used to reduce stormwater volume flowing from the project site.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

√ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
√ shrubs
√ grass
pasture
crop or grain
wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

A small amount of vegetation (a few bushes) located in the planter bed on the west side of the project will be removed to complete the ramp landings. SDOT will preserve the plants in the existing bed as much as possible.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The project is in a fully developed and paved road intersection that is not habitat to endangered species.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

To the extent possible SDOT will restore any vegetation that is removed for the construction of the curb ramps on the on the southwest corner of the intersection.

5. Animals

a. Birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site (indicated by bold, underlined font):

Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: Crows pigeons, doves, starlings and house sparrows are common urban species that could occur in the project area

Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: Rodents including rats and squirrels and raccoons could occur in the project area

Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

All work will occur in right-of-way or in previously disturbed areas that are not habitat for endangered species.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The project is within a principal route of the North American Pacific Flyway. However, this project does not alter or remove any habitat that would that would affect migrating birds

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The project would not materially affect wildlife and therefore the project will not include special measures to preserve or enhance wildlife. The work will take place within the existing right-of-way or in previously disturbed areas, which are not habitat for wildlife.

6. Energy and natural resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

The signal currently uses electricity and will continue to do so once it is replaced.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.**

The project does not involve building structures or planting vegetation that would block access to the sun for adjacent properties.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:**

Not applicable (see item B.6.a).

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.**

Potentially hazardous materials likely to be present during construction include gasoline and diesel fuels, hydraulic fluids, oils, lubricants, solvents, paints, asphalt cement and other chemical products. A spill of one of these substances could occur during construction as a result of either equipment failure or worker error.

The extent of the soil contamination in the right of way is not known. See response to question A.8. There will limited excavation in the right-of-way for installation of drainage structures and utility poles.

Although unexpected, contaminated soils, sediments or groundwater could also be exposed during removal of existing paving and utility installation. If disturbed, contaminated substances could expose construction workers and potentially other individuals in the vicinity through blowing dust, stormwater runoff, or vapors.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

No special emergency services are anticipated to be required during construction or maintenance of the completed project.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

A Health and Safety Plan will be submitted by the construction contractor before work commences. This plan will provide information on any toxic substances that may be associated with the project and outline safe procedures for handling any of these substances.

A Spill Plan will be developed to control spills. Any contaminated materials that are encountered during construction will be contained and disposed of in a manner consistent with the level of contamination, in accordance with federal, state and local regulatory requirements, by a qualified contractor(s) and/or City staff.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?**

There are no sources of noise that will affect the project.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.**

The noise produced by this project will be typical of road construction projects and include contributions from vehicle engines, excavating equipment, saw cutting, cement trucks and asphalt paving equipment.

Noise levels in the vicinity of construction would temporarily increase during construction activities. Noise levels within 50 feet of construction equipment may exceed 90 dB for short periods of time. However, short-term noise from construction equipment will be limited to the allowable maximum levels specified in the City of Seattle's Noise Control Ordinance (SMC 25.08.425 – Construction and equipment operations).

Noise from construction equipment would occur between the hours of 7 am and 10 pm weekdays, and 9 am to 10 pm on the weekends during construction. Although not expected, if there is a need for work outside these times to minimize traffic impacts, the project will request a noise variance permit to allow some construction work at night.

After completion of the project, occasional noise from equipment used for on-going routine maintenance and repair will occur, but would be limited to 7 am to 10 pm weekdays and 9 am to 10 pm weekends.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:**

SMC 25.08.425, which prescribes limits to noise and construction activities, will be fully enforced while the project is under construction. The following measures may be used to minimize noise impacts during construction:

- Whenever possible, operation of heavy equipment and other noisy activities would be limited to non-sleeping hours.
- Effective mufflers would be installed and maintained on equipment.
- Equipment and vehicle staging areas would be located as far from residential areas as possible.
- Idling of power equipment would be minimized.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?**

The right of way at the project site is used for sidewalk, curb ramps, roadway and roadway utilities. Adjacent properties are commercial. Approximately 177 square feet of new ROW have been purchased for this project so that the curb ramps could be constructed to meet ADA requirements.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No. The site has not been used for agriculture in the recent past.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Aside from buildings adjacent to the project site, structures in the NE 145th Street and Lake City Way NE intersection include utility poles with street lights and signal systems; underground structures for drainage, electrical, and water; and other utilities.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No, the proposed project will not demolish any structures.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Neighborhood Commercial 2.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan Future Use Map, May 2013 indicated that the project area a commercial mixed use area.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

There are no designated shorelines within the project area.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

No portion of the project site has been zoned as an environmentally sensitive area..

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not applicable.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not applicable.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:**

The 2009 Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan identifies the project area as a Tier 1 high priority area for pedestrian improvements.

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**

Not applicable.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**

Not applicable.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:**

Not applicable.

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?**

No structures will be built as part of this sidewalk and intersection improvement construction project.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?**

No view impacts are expected to result from this project. If trees that are planted they will not obstruct any view corridors.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:**

The project will not have aesthetic impacts, therefore no measures are proposed.

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**

During Construction: If the project work were to occur after daylight hours, the contractor might use portable lighting to aid in construction.

After Construction: No harmful light or glare is associated with the final proposal.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No. The project will not significantly change the street lighting in the project area.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

There are no existing off-site sources of light or glare that would affect the project.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

The project will not have light or glare impacts, therefore no measures are proposed.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

There are no designated and informal recreational opportunities in the immediate vicinity.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No. The project will not displace existing recreational uses.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

During construction, a traffic management plan will be put in place so that the local residents and businesses have access to their properties.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

There are no properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the immediate vicinity of the project.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

The work will take place in existing, developed areas and the project is not likely to harm any cultural resources. Excavations on this project will include installation of four drainage catch basins and connections to existing drains at a depth of two feet. A new steel pole to hold the signal mast arm will be installed on the intersection's NE corner. The excavation for the foundation of the mast arm will be up to four feet in diameter and 15 deep. Areas near the foundation installation have records showing underground storage tank installations indicating that the entire area had been previously disturbed.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Should evidence of cultural remains, either historic or prehistoric, be encountered during excavation, work in the immediate area will be suspended, and the find will be examined and documented by a professional archaeologist in accordance with State law. Decisions regarding appropriate mitigation and further action would be made at that time.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The project will take place within the public right-of-way at the NE 145th Street and Lake City Way NE intersection. Access to the site is via both of these streets.

b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If so, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

There are bus stops approximately on half block west, south and north of the NE 145th Street and Lake City Way NE intersection. King County routes 306, 308, 309, 312, 330, 372, and 522 serve these stops.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

The project will not change the number of parking spaces.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

The project will add curb ramps on the south side of the NE 145th Street and Lake City Way NE intersection and add new concrete panels within the roadway.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

The project will not use or impact any water, rail or air transportation.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

The number of vehicular trips and peak volumes are not expected to change as a result of the proposed project. Construction-related traffic (i.e., large trucks and materials hauling) will occur temporarily during the construction period.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

- SDOT will work to minimize disruptions and maintain adequate access during the construction phase.
- Temporary road closures, if needed, will be minimized, and detour routes, if needed, will have proper signage.
- The construction contractor will be required to submit a traffic control plan for approval by the City. The contractor will enforce the traffic control plan during construction.
- Alternative routes for pedestrians, bicyclists, and those with disabilities will be identified and marked clearly.

15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

The project would have no impact on the need for public services.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

The project will not impact public services, therefore no measures are required.

16. Utilities

a. Underline utilities currently available at the site:

Electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

The project will make stormwater drainage improvements on the east curb and install a new signal pole.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Prepared by Denise M. Healy

Signature: Denise M Healy

Date Submitted: March 3, 2014

Project Manager's Approval [Signature]

Date Submitted March 6, 2014

